



Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date Monday 13 November 2017
Time 9.30 am
Venue Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham

Business

Part A

**Items during which the Press and Public are welcome to attend.
Members of the Public can ask questions with the Chairman's
agreement.**

1. Apologies
2. Substitute Members
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 October 2017 (Pages 3 - 12)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Any items from Co-opted Members or interested parties
6. Media Relations - Update on Media Items
7. Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan (Pages 13 - 38)
 - (a) Joint report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships and the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services.
 - (b) Presentation by Maggie Bosanquet, Sustainability and Climate Change Team Leader, Regeneration and Local Services.
8. Carbon Management Plan (Pages 39 - 44)
 - (a) Joint report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships and the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services.
 - (b) Presentation by Steve Beresford, Senior Carbon Management Officer, Regeneration and Local Services.
9. Minutes from the County Durham Environment Partnership Board on 14 June and 13 September 2017 (Pages 45 - 56)
10. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Helen Lynch
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham

3 November 2017

To: **The Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor E Adam (Chair)
Councillor O Milburn (Vice-Chair)

Councillors B Avery, D Bell, L Brown, J Carr, J Clare, J Clark,
R Crute, A Gardner, P Howell, P Jopling, C Kay, R Manchester,
C Martin, A Patterson, A Simpson, P Sexton, L Taylor, M Wilson and
S Zair

Co-opted Members:

Mr T Bolton and Mr D Kinch

Contact: Paula Nicholson

Email: 03000 269710

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Friday 6 October 2017 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor E Adam (Chair)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors D Bell, J Carr, J Clare, J Clark, R Crute, P Howell, P Jopling, C Kay, R Manchester, C Martin, O Milburn, A Simpson, P Sexton and M Wilson

Co-opted Members:

Mr T Bolton

Also Present:

Councillors D Boyes and J Turnbull

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Brown, A Gardner, A Patterson, L Taylor, S Zair and Mr D Kinch.

2 Substitute Members

No notification of Substitute Members had been received.

3 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2017 were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

4 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Milburn declared an interest in Agenda Item No.11 – Scoping Report: Review of Allotments Management Policy.

5 Any Items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

There were no items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties.

6 Media Relations

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer referred Members to recent press articles relating to the remit of Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The articles were:

- Durham big winner in this year's Northumbria in Bloom after picking up eight top prizes – Durham scooped the overall top prize as well as the best small city but there were also awards for Sedgfield, Chester le Street and Seaham who all won top prizes in their categories with additional gold awards for Middleton in Teesdale and Tanfield.
- Turning the Tide on Litter along our Beaches – An army of volunteers had been recruited to clean up our beaches as part of a national fight against marine litter. Four of beaches on the County Durham coast took part at Seaham, Hawthorne Dene, Easington and Horden. (this links to a future work programme item on the Heritage Coast).
- Operation Spruce Up moves to Ferryhill – Operation Spruce Up moved to Ferryhill on Monday 25 September 2017 and will see a deep clean in the Market Place, Market Street, Main Street, North Street and the A167 and surrounding areas.
- Six fined after being found guilty of littering - Six people have been ordered to pay a total of almost £1,500 after being found guilty of dropping litter.

Councillor Kay referred to the Northumbria in Bloom awards and that not all awards were mentioned in the media.

Resolved: That the presentation be noted.

7 Winter Maintenance

The Committee considered the Joint Report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships and the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services that provided Members with information on the Winter Maintenance Policy that looked back at how the authority coped with the previous winter and what it has in place to deal with the forthcoming winter (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

Members received a presentation from the Highway Asset Manager, Regeneration and Local Services that provided Members with statistics on salt for 2016/17; service change improvements; improvements to depots; current fleet; weather stations; winter maintenance policy; treatment routes; footway snow clearance; provision of salt and grit bins; key facts and figures; partnership working; the snow code and winter maintenance 'Go Live' (for copy of presentation, see file of minutes).

Members were advised that the service had used a total of 30,000 tonnes of salt, had carried out nearly 5000 pre salt runs, replenished 335 salt bins carried out 99 snow salt runs in the Dales area with a total expenditure of £3.3 million. The Highways Assets Manager advised that although last year's winter was considered as mild in comparison to the heavy winters of 2009/10 and 11 it was not without its challenges. 2016/17 winter had continued into April with snow fall which impacted on resources. Members were advised that all gritting vehicles including tractors used by farmers had a tracking system.

The Highways Assets Manager informed the committee that most of the vehicles used by their staff for gritting and snow clearing was less than 4 years old with a maximum age of 7 years old. The weather stations provided live updates on road conditions, which helped motorists plan their route safely. Members were advised that the government had issued a new code of practice which had some changes from the old one and that the authority would be aligning itself to the new code.

Information was given on treatment routes and members were informed that for priority 1 carriageways Durham County Council treat 45% of their roads which is the highest in the country some local authorities only treat 20% of carriageways. For priority 2 carriageways the authority only treat 10% of which are only treated during prolonged severe weather conditions. During heavy snowfall more intensive resource is required to keep carriage ways open, this has not been used since winter 2010/11. Footways are not treated unless there are extended periods of frost conditions and then only in specific places. Information was given on the provision of salt and grit bins and members were advised that anyone can request a grit bin and request forms were available on the website.

Members were provided with key facts and figures in relation to winter maintenance and with a list of parish councils who work with the local authority in gritting mainly footpaths. Members were advised that in other European countries householders are required to remove the snow from the footpaths in front of their properties but this wasn't law in the UK. However many householders are under the assumption that if they did this then someone fell and injured themselves they would be held liable – this is not the case as they can prove they had done this with good intentions.

Mr Bolton inquired about the costs involved in the purchase of salt and grit and if there were any regional arrangements with other local authorities to achieve economies of scale. The Highways Assets Manager advised that this was done via a North East Procurement Organisation contract to buy salt from Cleveland Potash so economies of scale involved.

Councillor Martin asked if getting access to priority 1 routes was an issue due to parked cars. The Highway Asset Manager responded that this was a more serious problem than it had been in the past with increasing numbers of households owning two or three cars which meant that at least one of the cars could be parked on the roadside. This could lead to problems if the gritter couldn't get past, then they have to pull off that route so parked cars were a massive problem. The service use media to ask people to park sensibly to allow the gritter to get past, but this was a national problem.

Councillor Clare advised that in his opinion, the system was fantastic and he was proud of the level of service being delivered. He mentioned that the public tend to criticise when there is a sudden burst of snow and everyone makes for the roads and the traffic grinds to a halt. The member asked if the service prepares the public for limitations of the service and if 'Go Live' was publicised. The Highways Asset Manager advised that the authority does use a weather forecast provider but sometimes it can be wrong. The worst conditions for the winter maintenance team was freezing rain, as rain washes the salt off the road and then freezes. The Highways Assets Manager advised that there had been lots of campaigns highlighting winter maintenance programme and media coverage including information on the website but the service is always open to ideas to increase public awareness and increase awareness of public responsibilities.

Councillor Boyes referred to the criteria used for the siting and supply of grit bins on steep gradients and if the gradient was stipulated or at the officers discretion. The Highway Asset Manager advised that the criteria for the siting of grit bins was published, but he didn't have the precise information but would get back to the Councillor with the information the Highways Inspectors assess whether a grit bins were needed. Members were informed that they had 2500 grit bins and they were nearly at saturation point.

Councillor Kay commented that he used the 'Go Live' system last year to see where the gritters were so that he could advise his constituents but anyone could use the 'Go Live' system who had access to the internet.

Councillor Sexton suggested that the Area Action Partnerships are used to get the message across to members of the public to make them aware of the problems the gritters have with parked vehicles.

In response to a question from Councillor Clare regarding the price of a dumpy bag of salt the Highways Assets Manager advised that this was approximately £108.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

8 Quarter One Performance Management Report - Report of Director of Transformation and Partnerships

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships that provided Members with progress against the Council's performance framework for the Altogether Greener priority theme for the first quarter of the 2017/18 financial year (for copy of report, see files of minutes).

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager was in attendance to give a presentation of the Altogether Greener performance and explained to members the new performance reporting arrangements for 2017/18 in particular the key performance questions: How clean and tidy is my local environment?; Are we reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change? and How effective and sustainable is our collection and disposal of waste? (for copy of presentation, see file of minutes).

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager advised that in some of the priority themes of the Council plan there were cross cutting questions and this was the case with the Altogether Wealthier question in relation to 'Is it easy to travel around the County?' which includes information on highways maintenance which falls within the remit of this committee.

Councillor Jopling referred to detritus on private land such as farmer's fields and sought clarification if the Council contacted private owners to ask them to clean it up. The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager responded that it depended on the severity but the Council did have powers to intervene to ask landowners to clear up sites on their land.

Councillor Jopling then queried about recycling figures being down, and was informed that the authority was below the national average. National studies show that attitudes to

recycling were linked to deprivation, but in relation to household waste level was in line with the national average. Councillor Jopling advised the committee that she had attended the visit to Suez, which had been very informative.

Councillor Howell asked in relation to levels of detritus, litter and dog fouling if officers visited the same areas to measure the levels and was informed that officers visited a different place each time and that there was a prescriptive methodology on sampling which enabled local authorities to be compared against each other. There are similar demographics but the methodology specifies certain aspects to ensure that there was coverage of all different areas and different types of area.

The Chair advised that this is a national average therefore national methods were used and gave the example of dog fouling being reported as low.

Councillor Martin commented on the success of the Council receiving additional funding for highways maintenance and referred to the state of some unclassified roads which were in need of repair and below performance target and asked how did this skew ability to use on unclassified roads and draw away match funding?

The Strategic Highways Manager advised Members that the Council measured all road networks to identify their conditions and 3% had been identified for treatment. Over the last 10 years there had been improvements in A, B and C roads with the condition improving from 15% to 3%. Unclassified roads remained high at 20% and the strategy had now moved to these roads. Funds could be moved to fix unclassified roads but this would then impact on the deterioration of A, B and C roads. There was no match funding for Highways Maintenance, funds came from the Council's defined maintenance budget but there was £1m incentive funding available to Durham as a top performing authority.

Councillor Howell sought clarification on the classification for prioritisation. The Strategic Highways Manager responded that the roads were surveyed using a scanner machine that collects lots of data which is processed and allows the service to plan indicating if the highway condition is green amber or red. They were unable to use the scanner on unclassified roads so they had to carry out a visual inspection and use an agreed methodology.

Councillor Manchester referred to fly-tipping and the use of CCTV cameras and asked if there was a rotation system in place and if a criteria was used to site the cameras.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager indicated that there was no prescribed methodology in placing CCTV cameras but they were placed based on information reports received of fly-tipping and hot spot areas. Local knowledge of Members and officers also had an input into the location of the cameras.

Councillor Clare sought clarification on the number of CCTV cameras held by the Council and the number of locations as it had been reported that there were only cameras in 19 locations. The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager would obtain the information and advise the member accordingly.

Mr Bolton referred to his parish council having fly-tipping problems and they asked for the installation of a CCTV camera but were advised that the site was not suitable as it was next

to residential properties, Mr Bolton added that this was disappointing as the visual sign of a camera could have acted as a deterrent.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer advised Members that the Special Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 23 October 2017 would be looking at fly-tipping and would ask the service to include information on CCTV cameras.

Councillor Turnbull indicated that Mid Durham AAP had purchased four cameras and he had been unable to determine where they were being used and would like to be provided with this information.

Councillor Sexton indicated that he was interested in technology and any alternative surveillance equipment available that were not subject to legislation such as wildlife camera traps and if covert cameras were used to detect dog fouling. The Chair advised that the members' questions would be picked up at the special meeting.

Councillor Jopling asked for an update on drain clearance as she had some issues with blocked drains which made the roads dangerous.

The Strategic Highways Manager responded that the drain and gully cleaning was a cyclic routine in some locations this could be three months but could be as long as two years. The Strategic Highways Manager advised that soil can get trapped and during the spring and summer months grass grows and causes blockages. The Chair advised Councillor Jopling that the Highways Maintenance was on the work programme and was scheduled to come to the January meeting of the committee.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

9 Quarter 4 Budget Outturn 2016/2017 - Joint Report of the Corporate Director of Resources and the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services

The Committee considered the Joint Report of the Corporate Director of Resources and Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which set out details of the outturn budget position for the former Neighbourhood Services group highlighting major variances in comparison with the budget. The Finance Manager, Regeneration and Local Services gave a presentation (for copies, see file of minutes).

Councillor Howell referred to capital projects and questioned their underspend and what efforts were being made to ensure that capital projects are on schedule.

The Finance Manager responded that project boards monitor delivery of capital schemes some projects were delayed due to unforeseen circumstances impacting upon our ability to deliver on time.

Resolved: That the final outturn position on Revenue and Capital for 2016/17 be noted.

10 Quarter 1 2017/2018 Revenue and Capital Forecast - Joint Report of the Corporate Director Resources and The Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services

The Committee considered the Joint Report of the Corporate Director of Resources and Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which set out details of the outturn budget position for the former Neighbourhood Services group highlighting major variances in comparison with the budget. The Finance Manager, Regeneration and Local Services gave a presentation (for copies, see file of minutes).

Councillor Martin congratulated departments on meeting the cuts year on year but asked how this was being done.

The Finance Manager responded that they had a high focus on keeping expenditure down using underspends, achieving savings and getting the best from contracts in the last few years.

The Chair advised that this was not a choice and the Council had tried to reduce the impact on front line services.

Councillor Crute indicated that the budget savings had been achieved through prudent management of the Council, choices had been made and pressures to spend reserves had been resisted. This was a sensible approach as once reserves are spent they are gone.

Councillor Howell indicated that it was difficult to assess performance against a budget and would like to see a year on year comparison.

Resolved: That the Quarter 1 forecast outturn position on Revenue and Capital for 2017/18 be noted.

11 Scoping Report: Review of Allotments Management Policy - Report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships

The Committee considered the Joint Report of the Director of Transformation and Partnership and Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services that provided Members with background information together with the terms of reference and project plan for a review of Durham County Council's future management of allotment services (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer presented the report highlighted that the review would be more than a light touch review as indicated in the report and reminded Members that scrutiny reviews can be policy review or policy development and this piece of scrutiny review activity would help to develop the new allotment policy and tenancy agreement.

The objectives of the review were:

- Examine and understand Durham County Council's current allotment service policy including implementation challenges experienced with the current countywide lettings policy.

- Examine and comment on Durham County Council's future allotment policy including:
 - The revised countywide lettings policy and countywide tenancy agreement and consider the possible implications of introduction.
 - The proposed options for further devolved management of Durham County Council's allotment estate to TOWN & Parish Councils where applicable or self-managed allotment associations including consideration of any advantages and challenges.
 - The options for Durham County Council's future management of non-allotment plots currently included in the allotment portfolio.
- Ensure engagement with existing allotment tenants in the review process by using social media to capture views/comments on Durham County Council's future allotment policy.
- Consider and compare Durham County Council's future allotment policy with allotment policies implemented by other local authorities
- Comment on the proposed consultation arrangements for Durham County Council's future allotment policy.

Following the review, it was expected the following outcomes will be achieved:

- Awareness of Durham County Council's current allotment service and policy including challenges experienced with the introduction of the countywide letting s policy
- An opportunity for members to further develop and inform Durham County Council's future allotment policy
- An opportunity for County Durham allotment tenants to influence Durham County Council future allotment policy
- Awareness of allotment policies implemented by other local authorities and the possible implications of introducing Durham County Council's future allotment policy.
- An opportunity to influence the proposed consultation arrangements for Durham County Council's future allotment policy.
- Durham County Council's future allotment policy and proposed consultation arrangements will have been further developed and informed by Overview and Scrutiny Members.

The review group would consist of up 10 Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee together with the Chair and Vice-Chair and the Chair and Vice-chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who would be ex-officio members. Members who were interested to be part of the review group to give their names to the Overview and Scrutiny Officer at the end of the meeting.

The Chairman indicated that they were looking to develop the policy which was an in depth process which needed commitment. The first visit to the allotments would be held on 11 October 2017 and they would be looking at current and future policy and communicating

with allotment holders. He asked that any interest in joining the group be given to the Overview and Scrutiny Officer.

Councillor Jopling indicated that allotments were a hot topic in her village.

Councillor Carr suggested that a representative from the Regional Allotments Association be invited to one of the working groups. Members were advised that a representative from the National Allotments Association would be attending the meeting on the 7 December 2017. Members agreed to also invite a representative from the Regional Allotments Association to a meeting of the group.

Mr Bolton referred to Parish Council's statutory providing allotments and he suggested that they also had an input into the review and this could be done through the County Durham Association of Local Councils.

Resolved: (i) That the terms of reference as set out in the report be agreed.

(ii) That the project plan circulated with the report be agreed.

(iii) That a representatives from the Regional Allotments Association and the County Durham Association of Local Councils be invited to attend a meeting of the group.

12 Durham Strategic Flood Prevention Group Minutes held 13 June 2017

The Minutes of the Durham Strategic Flood Prevention Group held on 13 June 2017 were received by the Committee for information.

13 Minutes of the Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Minutes held 21 April 2017

The Minutes of the meeting of the Northumbria Flood and Coast Committee held on 21 April 2017 were received by the Committee for information.

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**Environment and Sustainable
Communities Overview and
Scrutiny Committee**



13 November 2017

**Climate Change Strategy and
Delivery Plan**

**Joint Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation
and Partnerships and Ian Thompson, Corporate Director of
Regeneration and Local Services**

Purpose of the Report

1. To Provide the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with detail of progress made in relation to the County Durham Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan.

Background

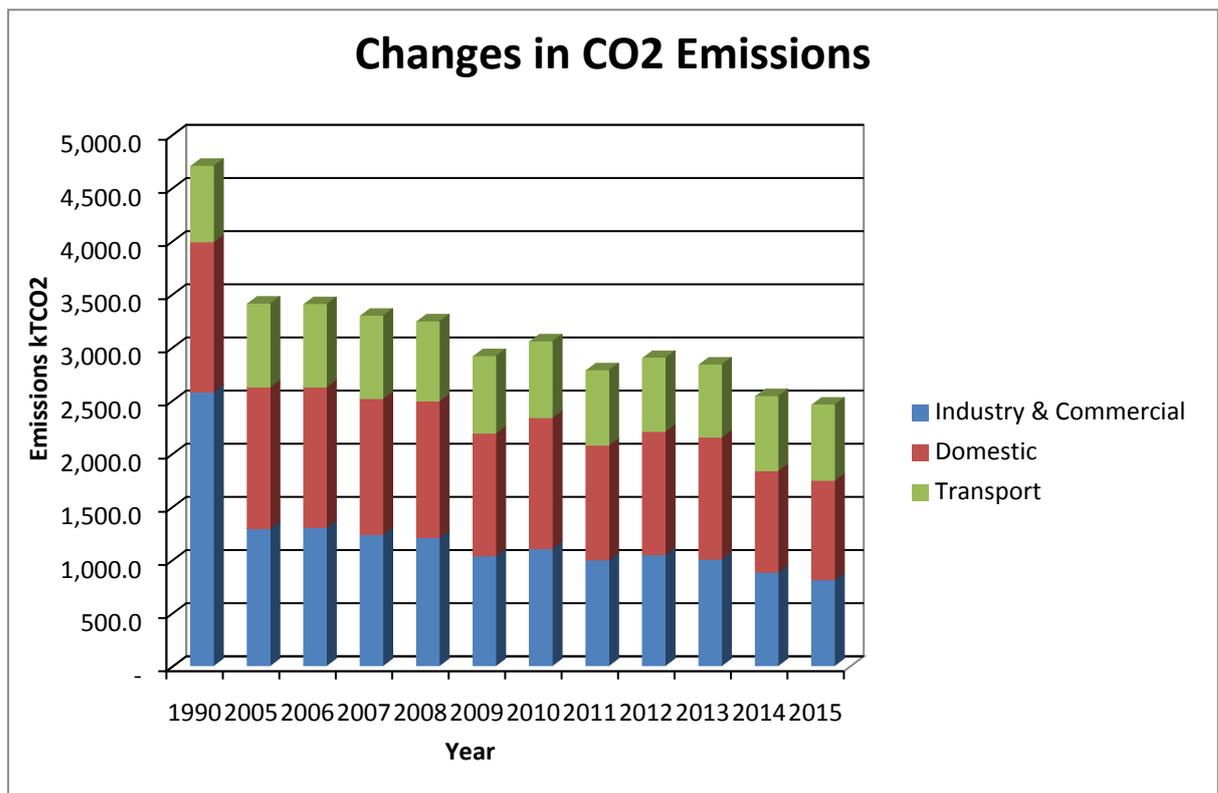
2. The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee have received regular updates on the Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan since 2012 via presentations.
3. The Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan were approved by Cabinet on the 15 July 2015. The report specifically highlighted the role that the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee had played and recommended:
'That Cabinet continues to support the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee's role in monitoring progress.'
4. At the meeting of the committee held on 9 November 2015 the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report detailing the progress of the Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan. It was agreed by members of the Committee to receive further updates including the progress made in obtaining EU funding.
5. The last progress report was provided to the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 24 January, 2017 and arrangements have been made for Maggie Bosanquet, Low Carbon Economy Team Leader to attend the meeting on the 13 November 2017 to deliver a presentation covering:
 - Current progress towards CO2 emission reduction targets and other Performance Indicators

- Status of European Funding

Current Position

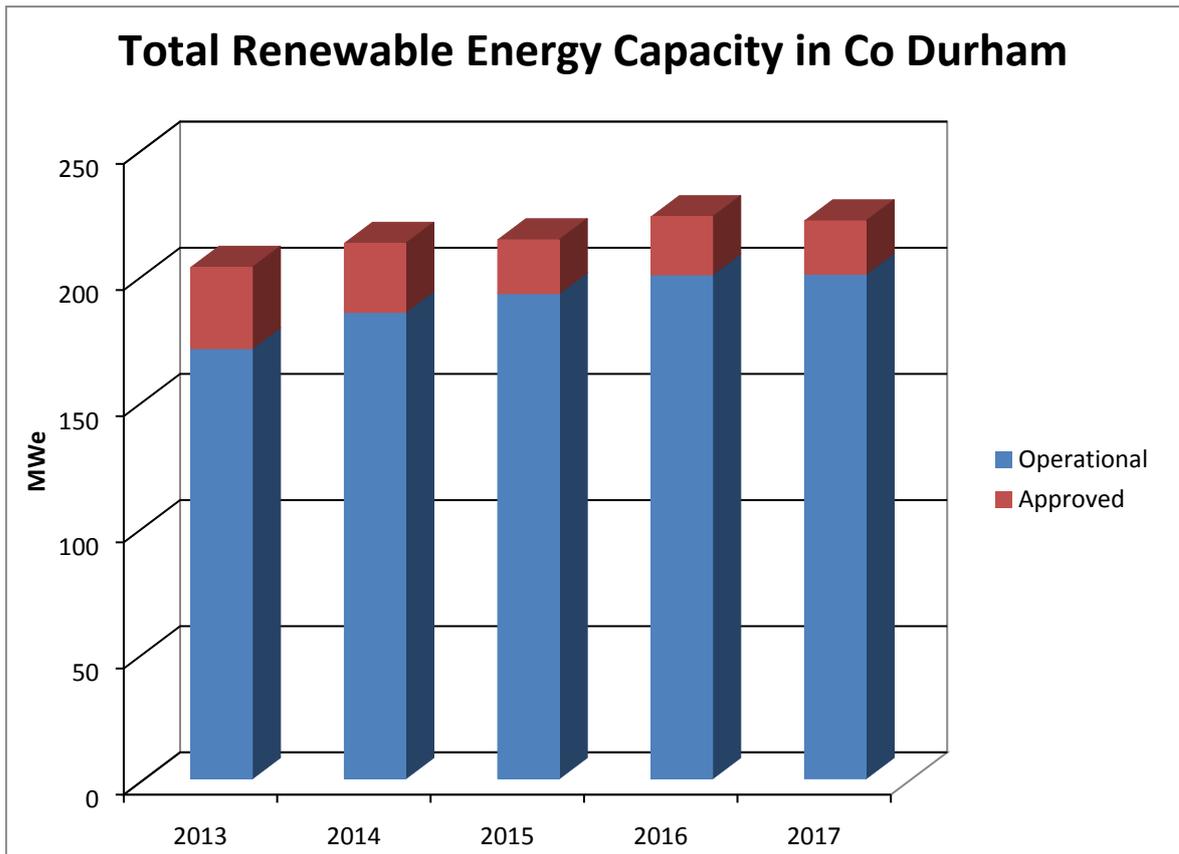
6. In order to comply with Government guidance, the Climate Change Strategy has now been made an essential requirement for consideration by any project that bids for European Regional Development low carbon funding (ERDF) money in County Durham, which is very helpful.
7. In 2015 County Durham emitted 2451.5 tonnes of CO₂, an 80t decrease from the previous year and an overall 49% (per capita) reduction since 1990. The reduction in emissions (from 2014 to 2015) comes mainly from industrial, commercial and domestic emissions, although there has been an increase in emissions from transport over the previous three years. The likely causes include increased energy efficiency (including national decarbonisation of the electricity grid), and slightly higher annual temperatures for the North East.

Graph 1:-



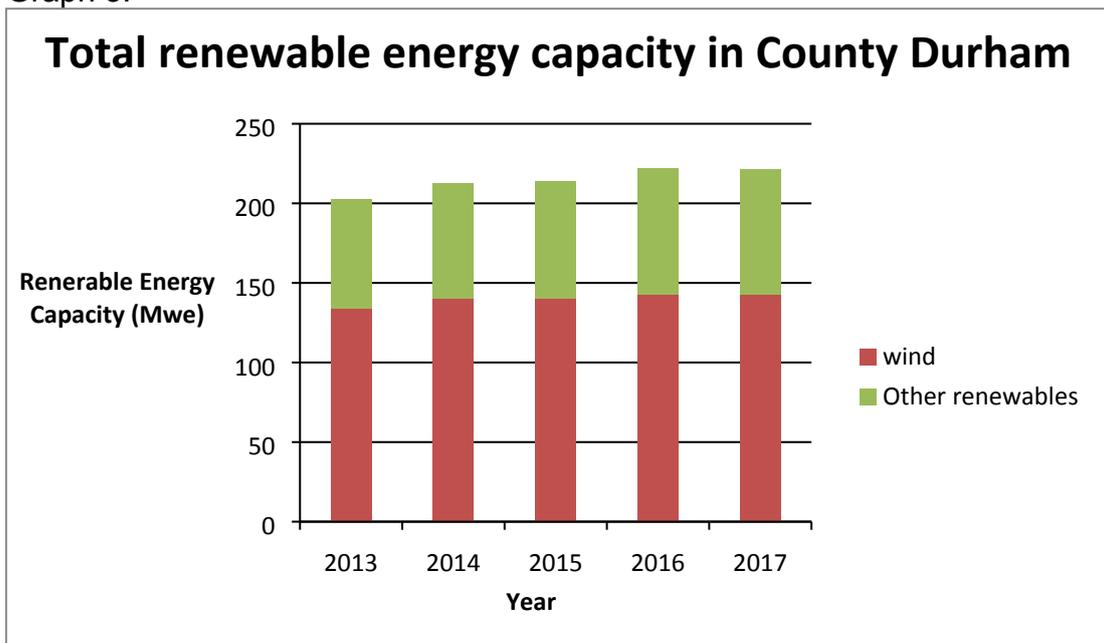
8. The following graphs show that across County Durham renewable electricity generation has increased by about 15% in the past 4 years, with the total amount of operational renewable energy capacity at 200MW (graph 2). Adding in approved capacity takes it to 221MW.

Graph 2:



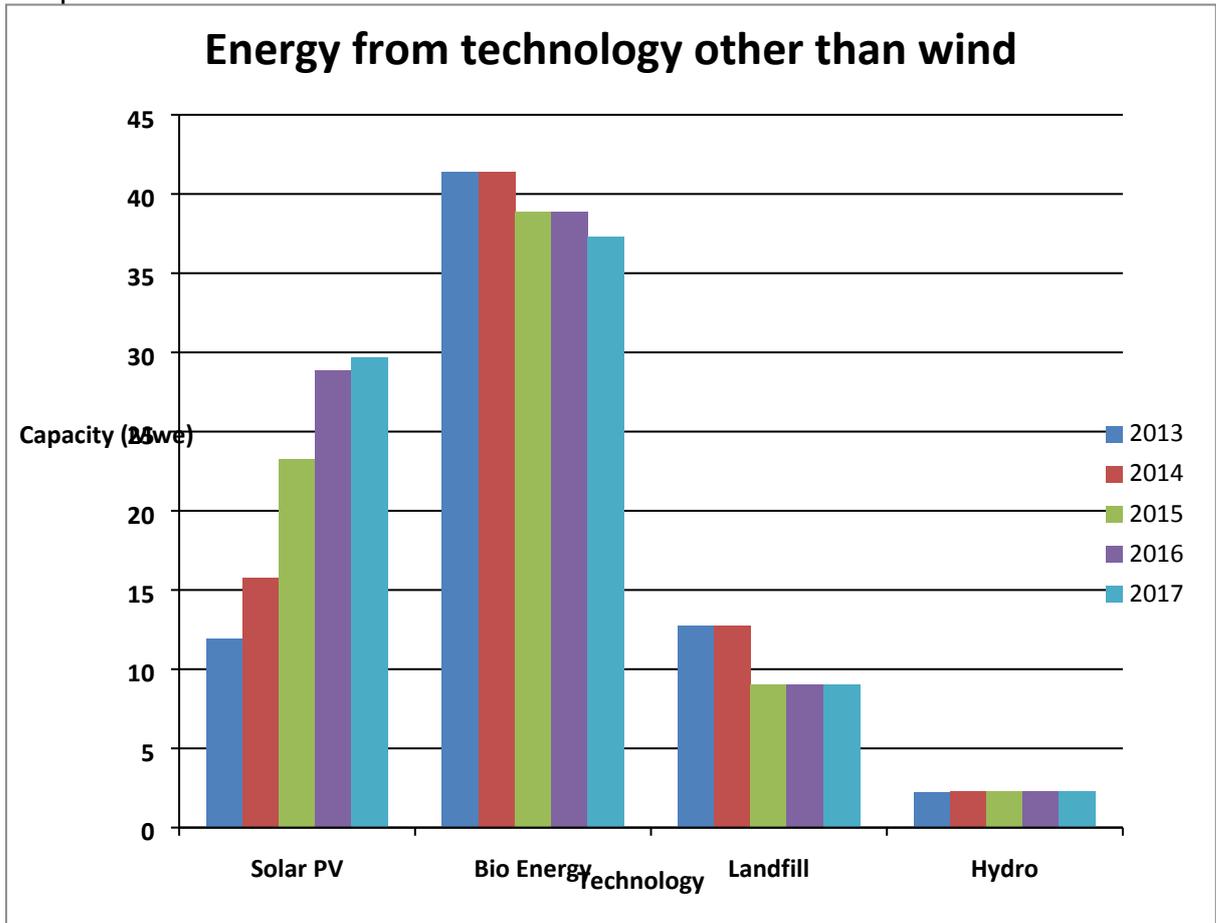
9. Wind continues to provide the majority of renewable energy capacity as can be seen by graph 3 below, however there has been no new approved wind applications in County Durham since 2016 as a consequence of changes to planning guidance:

Graph 3:



10. Solar PV has seen the largest growth out of all sectors since 2013, with 29.5MW now installed on homes, community centres and businesses in the County.

Graph 4:



11. There continues to be uncertainty in the sector with fewer installations of solar panels in 2016/17, and no new wind turbine applications following the 'Written Ministerial Statement' in June 2015¹ and continued reduction in 'Feed in Tariff' rates.

12. The Climate Change Delivery Plan is a live document designed to monitor delivery of the Climate Change Strategy/Policy and to prioritise key actions. The County Durham Climate Change Partnership, chaired by John Reed, has taken a lead role in driving forward Delivery Plan progress by means of a 'Priority Actions 2015-17' document.

13. The Priority Actions document is attached as Appendix 2 and shows the breadth of progress to date. Some of the latest developments are highlighted in the following paragraphs.

14. **Schools:** 241 or 90% of County Durham schools are supported by the Schools Carbon Reduction Programme which engages pupils, teachers and support staff

¹ <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-vote-office/June%202015/18%20June/1-DCLG-Planning.pdf>

in reducing energy costs and carbon emissions through lesson plans, behavioural change and energy monitoring. Different options are being considered to enable schools to undertake energy efficiency retrofits on their buildings.

15. **Transport:** Sustainable Travel have been working on a three year work programme. This year's work is underway and some designs are in preparation for works next year. These are capital improvement schemes on the walking and cycling networks, including cycle super routes such as the Great North Cycleway, funded through the Local Transport Plan. Schemes are predominantly in town areas to enable local journeys to be made on foot or by cycle. Other achievements include:

- The Cycling *Strategic Delivery Plan* - aiming to go to public consultation early 2018 and published by mid-2018.
- Produced 2 new Town cycling maps and guides for Chester le Street and Durham City.
- Installed 282 cycle stands across the county since 2016 through the ParkThatBike Scheme.
- Unicycle project – a partnership project coordinated by DCC to promote walking and cycling opportunities for students in Durham City. Project includes free locks and lights with every bike purchased from Recyke Y' Bike, series of guided walks and rides, information on routes and a post-Lumiere celebration event.

16. **Communities:** Schools are engaged through OASES, whilst specific communities at risk of flooding continue to be supported through the CCU, with emergency plans. EA are continuing to undertake natural flood management in a variety of areas including upper Weardale. The waste team are continuing to deliver food waste promotions, targeting zero waste in partnership with a range of community groups across the County.

17. **EU Funding:** The BEEP project is currently working with over 45 County Durham business' to provide them with free energy advice. The project has also approved one business a grant of £9,808.00 towards energy efficient equipment and installation. In Q2 2017 the Projects website was launched alongside social media (LinkedIn and Twitter) support to boost promotion and digital footfall towards the Project.

18. Now in its second year, the LOCARBO project has identified Good Practices from other European partners and is in the process of selecting the most appropriate for exchange. One such practice that has close links with energy saving measures with SME's from Hungary is being 'showcased' by the ERDF funded BEEP project in November to demonstrate its success in business engagement.

19. The parallel focussed REBUS project that is supporting energy saving practices in community buildings, has also completed its assessment of Good Practices

and is now working with its Stakeholder group to develop an Energy Renovation Pathway and future Action Plan.

20. **Climate Adaptation:** The Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU) is leading on a wide range of initiatives to tackle flooding and adaptation to climate change, including school visits and advice to caravan sites situated in flood risk areas. A flood awareness video is also being created and an arts project entitled Rainworks is being delivered in partnership with young people in Woolsingham.
21. **District heating:** Feasibility Studies have been completed to examine the potential for district heating in Durham City. Two schemes, one in the City Centre, around the Milburngate redevelopment and one around the University have been completed in detail, both of which are potentially viable schemes. Further work will be done to examine how/if this can be taken forward.
22. Making Low Carbon Economic development a key priority for the Council, developing partnerships with key stakeholders. The new MOU with Durham University includes Energy as an area of joint interest and we now have a place on the Durham Energy Institute Advisory Board. We are holding discussions with Northern PowerGrid, Northern Gas Networks, the North East LEP and Northumbrian Water. We are also developing a close working relationship with the Centre for Energy Systems integration (CESI).
23. **Minewater:** Developing relationships with the Coal Authority and Durham University to explore opportunities to exploit the heat contained within minewater

Recommendations

24. Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to note the content of the report and provide comment accordingly.
25. That the members of the committee receive a further progress report on the Strategy and delivery plan at a future meeting.

Background Papers

The Cabinet report and Climate Change Strategy/Policy and Delivery Plan are available from the Cabinet meeting pages:

<http://democracy.durham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MIId=8225&Ver=4>

Contact: Maggie Bosanquet , Climate Change Team Leader
Tel: 03000 265549

APPENDIX 1 - Implications

Finance – None directly, but the Delivery Plan aims to deliver projects that would help to reduce energy costs for County Durham communities. European bids may require match funding but would bring in considerable money to the authority.

Staffing - None

Risk – The Strategy highlights the risks of a changing climate to County Durham

Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty - None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - None

Human Rights - None

Consultation – None

Procurement - None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications - None

Actions in years 2015-17

In 2016 and 2017 the Climate Change Steering Group and Durham County Council will be aiming to make significant progress on the following actions from the plan:

Action	Project	Main themes affected	Detailed action	Project Owner	Progress to date	Next steps
Demonstrate political commitment		Public Sector Performance	Obtain widespread commitment from partners and key organisations	Climate Change Strategy Group	<p>The actions from the Climate Change Strategy Group are continually reviewed and updates on projects are provided to the Environment Partnership Board along with the Environment & Scrutiny Committee on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>The Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan have been adopted by DCC corporately and are planned to be incorporated into Durham University's Environmental Sustainability Policy.</p>	To continue to provide updates and seek support from all partners involved in the Climate Change Group as well as from the Environment Partnership Board and the Environment & Scrutiny Committee.
Identify and implement means of finance to	European Rural Development Fund (ERDF)/ (European	all	Work in partnership to develop bids for European	Climate Change Group	Funding bids have been successful. (Summaries will be included below including dates,	A bid was been submitted for a 100% funded Horizon 2020 project

Action	Project	Main themes affected	Detailed action	Project Owner	Progress to date	Next steps
Actively support climate change action	Social Fund (ESF)		funding for climate change projects		<p>amount, source and outputs).</p> <p>Business Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP) - 41 Businesses supported over the course of the programme thus far. 1 SME received grant Support</p> <p>LoCarbo - Now in its second year, the LOCARBO project has identified Good Practices from other European partners and is in the process of selecting the most appropriate for exchange. One such practice that has close links with energy saving measures with SME's from Hungary is being 'showcased' by the ERDF funded BEEP project in November to demonstrate its success in business engagement.</p> <p>REBUS - The parallel focussed REBUS project that is supporting energy saving practices in community buildings, has also completed its assessment of Good Practices and is now working with its Stakeholder group to develop an</p>	<p>called ENTICE. Unfortunately this failed to go through to the next stage for support.</p> <p>A bid called EPCopt, submitted by Assets aims at addressing mobilising & improving policy measures that can be implemented in different regions to mitigate a no. of obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 2010/31/EU with the purpose of enhancing & optimising the use of EPCs in buildings.</p>

Action	Project	Main themes affected	Detailed action	Project Owner	Progress to date	Next steps
					<p>Energy Renovation Pathway and future Action Plan.</p> <p>The two projects have a combined value of approximately £300,000 (depending on exchange rates) for County Durham.</p>	
Reduce the carbon emissions from County Durham	Develop and deliver carbon management plans	Public sector performance, Built Environment, Transport and Infrastructure		Low Carbon Economy Team	<p>Based on 1990 levels the County has reduced its carbon emissions by 49% (2015). This has surpassed the target of a 40% reduction by 2020.</p> <p>Continued grid decarbonisation has been a key factor in this reduction, as well as improvements in the industrial and commercial sectors (although some could be related to decreased output). Transport emissions has seen a small increase.</p>	To continue to carry our projects and initiatives in line with further carbon emission reductions.
	Deliver climate change work in schools	Various	Continue the Eco-Schools and Schools Carbon Reduction Officers	Rich Hurst	241 or 90% of County Durham schools are supported by the Schools Carbon Reduction Programme which engages pupils, teachers and support staff in reducing energy costs	The same framework contract as for DCC buildings is being explored, to deliver Energy Performance

Action	Project	Main themes affected	Detailed action	Project Owner	Progress to date	Next steps
			programmes. Ensure schools have the information they need to manage their emissions		and carbon emissions through lesson plans, behavioural change and energy monitoring. CCU: 40 school visits in 2015/16. Additional work carried out in a primary school in Darlington regarding flooding and rainworks.	Contracting for schools but there are still issues to be addressed around financial risk, especially regarding academisation. CCU: 22 schools booked in through Junior ED for September-December 2016. Work with rapid response flood area schools to develop rainworks for community.
	Establish baseline data with local and national data.	Public sector performance,		Low Carbon Economy Team	DCC has accurate data publically available on its website	Establish links to web pages owned by partners
Promote a low carbon economy	Support new Technological innovation in fields related to climate change	Low Carbon Economy	Prepare ERDF bids	DCC Low Carbon Economy Team	BEEP successful in 2016. Other bids have been prepared, internal and external but all have failed compliance checks. Preparing new bid for whole building retrofit	Continue to support new project bids

Action	Project	Main themes affected	Detailed action	Project Owner	Progress to date	Next steps
	mitigation and adaptation				project, following release of new guidance.	
Support local businesses to become more energy efficient and install renewable energy	Develop an ERDF project to promote business energy efficiency	Low Carbon Economy		DCC Low Carbon Economy Team	EU funding has now been agreed for an £889,811 Business Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP) for County Durham, to start 1 st October 2016 and run until 30 th September 2019. Work ongoing with 41 SME's already supported since project inception	Continue to work with businesses through grant support mechanisms. Support the roll out of a regional bid.
Promote a sustainable and resilient food supply chain	Implement the Sustainable Local Food Strategy for County Durham	Low Carbon Economy		Liz Charles	The County Durham Food Partnership has delivered a number of projects in the past year: Community growing projects across the County have been established. Over 500 individuals in 55 groups have participated in schemes to develop community fruit and vegetable patches, providing healthy, sustainable food across Durham. The County Durham Food Hub	

Action	Project	Main themes affected	Detailed action	Project Owner	Progress to date	Next steps
					<p>aims to deliver an efficient supply chain for local food producers to connect them with local businesses and buyers for their products. By acting as a central hub, sales can be increased whilst delivery costs and emissions are kept to a minimum.</p> <p>The group has been working with DCC and community groups to deliver waste food reduction events and programmes.</p>	
Promote Sustainable Businesses	Deliver the County Durham Environment awards	All		Steve Bhowmick	<p>The County Durham Environment Awards launched for its 28th year in June 2017. The launch this year included a soft press launch and information being sent out to various organisations across the region, town and parish councils, DCC members, DCC departments and any other interested parties. So far entries have been coming in steadily with some interesting schemes already received which means this year is set to be as successful as ever.</p>	<p>Judging has commenced and the awards ceremony will take place in November</p> <p>To continue the awards in 2018.</p>

Action	Project	Main themes affected	Detailed action	Project Owner	Progress to date	Next steps
Use the planning system to promote energy efficiency low carbon community which is resilient to the impacts of climate change	Embed relevant policies within the County Durham Plan	Built Environment		DCC Planning via Low Carbon Economy Team	County Durham Plan will be going to Preferred Options in Spring. This will include policies on climate change and sustainable development. Spatial Policy are developing the policy currently, it will then be Sustainability Appraised by the Low carbon economy team.	-
Conserve and improve natural areas with a high embodied carbon	North Pennines AONB Partnership's Peatland Programme	Natural Environment	AONB Partnership to continue delivering actions to conserve and enhance peatlands through grip-blocking, bare/eroding peat	North Pennines AONB Partnership	The North Pennines AONB Partnership is a national leader in upland peatland restoration and has continued its work on grip blocking and bare peat restoration this year. In collaboration with partners in Yorkshire and Lancashire, the AONB team has secured 6.2million euros from the EU LIFE programme to expand this restoration work A further £280,000 has been secured from the Esmee	Continue restoration, raising funds and developing new financing mechanisms through the delivery of major projects

Action	Project	Main themes affected	Detailed action	Project Owner	Progress to date	Next steps
			restoration and monitoring work		<p>Fairbairn Foundation and the team is a partner in a bid to Defra worth c£500,000 locally. The team is engaged in a INTERREG submission called Carbon Connects in which it will restore peatlands and develop a sphagnum nursery (the latter in partnership with Wear Rivers Trust). Through the Northern Upland Chain LNP, the AONB team has led on the creation of a natural capital valuation for peatland and its restoration in the Pennine uplands. The LIFE project will aim to support further development of the IUCN UK Peatland Code and other work to develop new financing mechanisms.</p> <p>Contact: Paul Leadbitter North Pennines AONB Partnership</p>	
Promote biodiversity, greenspaces and green infrastructure	Work with the Coastal, Heritage and Landscape Partnership to	Natural Environment		TD to liaise with Coastal, Heritage and	The Land of oak and Iron Landscape Partnership is enhancing habitats and ecological connectivity along the corridor of the River Derwent and wider	Continue these projects.

Action	Project	Main themes affected	Detailed action	Project Owner	Progress to date	Next steps
that helps the area adapt to climate change	protect the natural environment from climate change			Landscape Group and Local Nature Partnership	catchment. The Bright Water landscape partnership is now in development and is seeking to deliver significant habitat restoration and enhanced ecological connectivity along the corridor of the River Skerne and wider catchment.	
	Promote the use of SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) and other measures of flood resilience	Built Environment, Natural Environment		John Reed	Guidance on SUDS has been published and an innovative funding mechanism has been developed all of which is detailed on the website http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/7363/Sustainable-drainage-systems	This is part of the planning process and will continue to be promoted.
Work towards a low carbon transport system	Promote the use of low carbon vehicles and transport	Transport and Infrastructure		Ian Jopling	Development of NECA bid for funding from the Access Fund for an ongoing programme of activities under the 'Go Smarter' banner, to build on the success of these previous programmes as well as further developing activities that promoted better access to employment and training and to further reinforce the link between	Whilst grant funding for Go Smarter project delivery ended on 31 st March 2017, a legacy for Go Smarter will be maintained with the brand used as an umbrella for ongoing sustainable transport

Action	Project	Main themes affected	Detailed action	Project Owner	Progress to date	Next steps
					<p>active travel and public health. This bid was unsuccessful.</p> <p>However, Durham County Council was successful in a second bid to the Access Fund to continue the Living Streets 'Walk To' project to work with businesses and schools to support economic, health and environmental development in targeted areas through active travel.</p> <p>Funding has been secured to continue the Go Smarter Business Network until 31st March 2018.</p>	<p>projects funded by other sources where available. This includes continuation of the Go Smarter Business Network, Workplace Accreditation Awards, County Durham Wheels to Work and Bikeability cycle training.</p> <p>The Living Streets 'Walk To' project will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify changes to the physical environment that benefit walking and cycling • Promote walking and cycling in schools, education settings and workplaces

Action	Project	Main themes affected	Detailed action	Project Owner	Progress to date	Next steps
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support in education settings and workplaces to sustain walking and cycling activities beyond the life of the funding. <p>Funding for the delivery of a package measures to facilitate and promote sustainable and active travel to be secured following the adoption of the Durham City Sustainable Transport Strategy in 2018. Go Smarter Business Network to be reviewed before decision whether to continue on existing or revised basis.</p>

Action	Project	Main themes affected	Detailed action	Project Owner	Progress to date	Next steps
	Develop the necessary infrastructure to enable low carbon transport	Transport and Infrastructure, Built Environment		Ian Jopling	<p>An audit and review of the usability of the existing cycle route network is now well underway and nearing completion. This work will inform the wider cycle network planning process and identified improvements to be delivered through the Local Transport Plan and via other capital funding opportunities.</p> <p>These improvements will be articulated in the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) – See next steps for more information.</p> <p>The national Cycling, Walking and Infrastructure Strategy sets out the need for local authorities to produce Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs). They are a new strategic way of identifying cycling and walking improvements at a local level. DfT state that having LCWIPs</p>	<p>DCC are aiming to have an LCWIP in place that will cover 3 main towns along the A167 corridor, namely, Newton Aycliffe, Durham City and Chester-le-Street.</p> <p>The key outputs of LCWIPs are;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Network Plans for walking and cycling 2. A prioritised programme of infrastructure improvements for future investment 3. A report which sets out the underlying analysis carried out and

Action	Project	Main themes affected	Detailed action	Project Owner	Progress to date	Next steps
					will better place authorities when making the case for future investment.	<p>provides a narrative which supports the identified improvements.</p> <p>The LCWIP should be in place to inform the preferred options of the County Durham Plan in May 2018.</p>
Raise awareness and knowledge of sustainable transport	Deliver various campaigns targeting different sectors- commuting, school, business etc.	Transport and Infrastructure		Ian Jopling	NECA bid for funding from the Access Fund for an ongoing programme of activities under the 'Go Smarter' banner, to build on the success of these previous programmes as well as further developing activities that promoted better access to employment and training and to further reinforce the link between active travel and public health. This bid was	Legacy activity for the GO Smarter programme has been finalised. The Go Smarter brand will continue. A Core Team based within the Regional Transport Team have already identified some legacy projects

Action	Project	Main themes affected	Detailed action	Project Owner	Progress to date	Next steps
					<p>unsuccessful.</p> <p>However, Durham County Council was successful in securing additional funding through a consortium led by Blackpool Council for the 'Walk To' project, working with voluntary sector organisation Living Streets.</p> <p>However, Durham County Council was successful in securing additional funding through a consortium led by Blackpool Council for the 'Walk To' project, working with voluntary sector organisation Living Streets.</p>	<p>including the schools projects that are being funded by other sources. The website and brand and business engagement will also continue to run albeit with a much smaller budget.</p> <p>Durham County Council will work with living street to deliver the 'Walk to' project.</p>
Work with local, regional and national interest groups to raise	Develop an ERDF project for community energy	Community Engagement, Low Carbon Business		DCC Low Carbon Economy Team with Groundwork and	DCC Low Carbon Team works closely with Community Energy England and the regional and local Community energy organisations that seeks to support the community energy sector including	

Action	Project	Main themes affected	Detailed action	Project Owner	Progress to date	Next steps
	Climate Change Education	Various		OASES	<p>in prominent community locations and show up when they get wet. Funded by CCU and DCC Sustainability fund.</p> <p>Durham University raises awareness of climate change via 'Greenspace' – the University's Environment Team. A full annual schedule of campaigns is produced every year and specific events / contests etc are promoted to all staff and students at the University.</p>	Durham University will continue to engage staff and students in environmental awareness campaigns and activities.
&	Develop and deliver resilience seminars for areas at risk	Community Engagement, Built Environment		Su Jordan	<p>CCU: 6 complete community emergency plans.</p> <p>Drop-in information sessions were held at Environment Agency rapid response areas for community members to find out more information about past and future flooding in their area.</p> <p>12 caravan site visits (those identified as being in a flood risk</p>	<p>A further 13 caravan sites (those identified as being in a flood risk area) to be contacted and information given either through a visit or by email.</p> <p>A further 10 school visits booked in</p>

Action	Project	Main themes affected	Detailed action	Project Owner	Progress to date	Next steps
					<p>area) have been completed in August/September 2016. Information was given on importance of resilience especially with increasing extreme weather events.</p> <p>33 school visits were completed during 16/17. 17 school visits completed to date in 17/18.</p> <p>EA are undertaking natural flood management and a bid for Government funding for Upper Weardale is to be submitted; GW is to include information in the next steps column.</p>	<p>before Christmas 2017.</p> <p>205 young people signed up to date for the Community Safety Award 17/18. Exercise Levantine 2 to take place in September 2018.</p>
	Support community groups wishing to increase their resilience	Community Engagement		Su Jordan	<p>Two workbooks have been produced for young people in uniformed groups to help them to gain skills on how to build local community resilience to severe weather such as flooding. One workbook is for ten to thirteen year old students and the other is for fourteen to eighteen year olds.</p> <p>During September this year,</p>	

Action	Project	Main themes affected	Detailed action	Project Owner	Progress to date	Next steps
					students from Wolsingham School will be working with professional artists to install their own waterproof designs on the pavement at Wolsingham Market Place, which will show up in wet weather. They will be joining secondary school students from Willington Parkside Academy, King James 1 Academy and Bishop Barrington in Bishop Auckland and Seaham High School in this innovative art project which is designed to raise awareness of climate change and the impact it has on communities	
Work across Europe to develop international programmes that share best practice	Ensure the findings from the LOWCARBO and REBUS projects are shared and developed across Durham	Impacts Beyond our Boundaries, Community Engagement,		DCC Low Carbon Economy Team with Durham Energy Institute	The learning from the LOCARBO and REBUS projects, which remain ongoing have highlighted key examples of good practice which members are learning from.	Ensure learning is disseminated across partners

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**Environment & Sustainable Communities
Overview & Scrutiny Committee**



13 November 2017

Carbon Management Plan

Joint report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships and Ian Thompson, Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services

Purpose of the Report

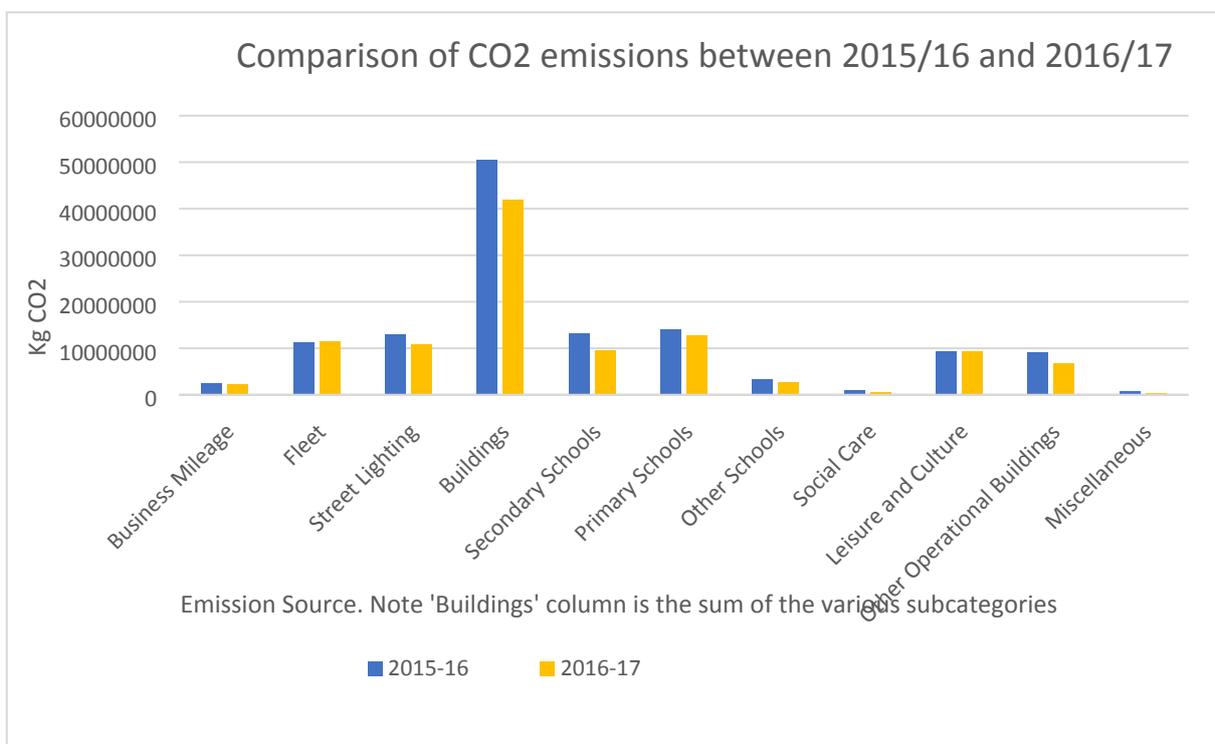
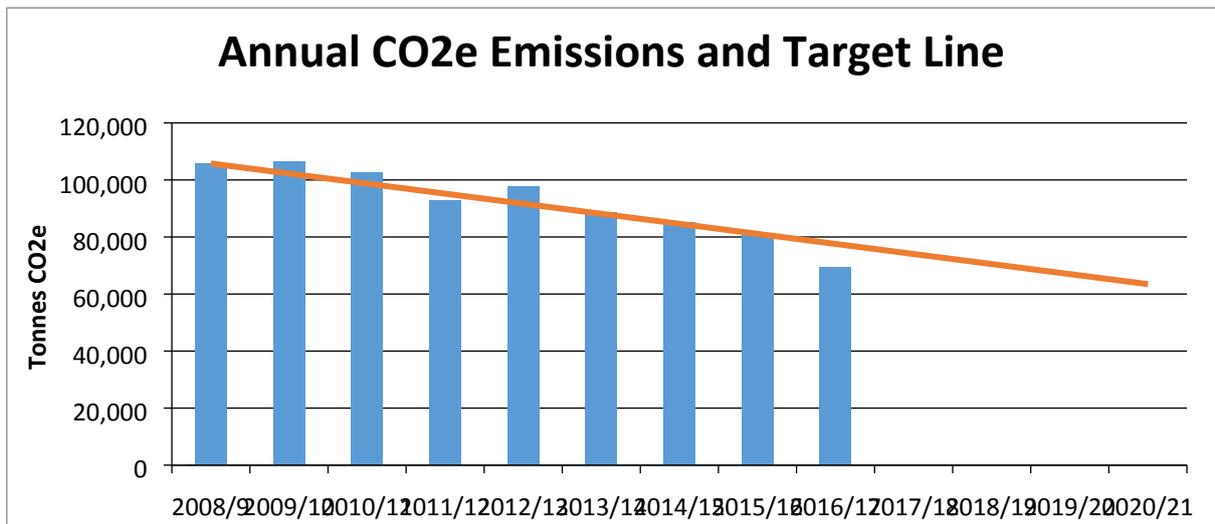
1. To provide Members of the Environment & Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee with a progress report on the Carbon Management Plan prior to a presentation by Stephen Beresford, Senior Carbon Management Officer focusing on
 - Progress in 2016/17
 - Projects delivered
 - On-going projects
 - Future work.

Background

2. The County Council's first Carbon Management Plan covered 2010-15 and it has been succeeded by a second plan covering the years to 2020. It is aspiring to a 40% saving by 2020, based on a 2008/9 baseline.

Overview

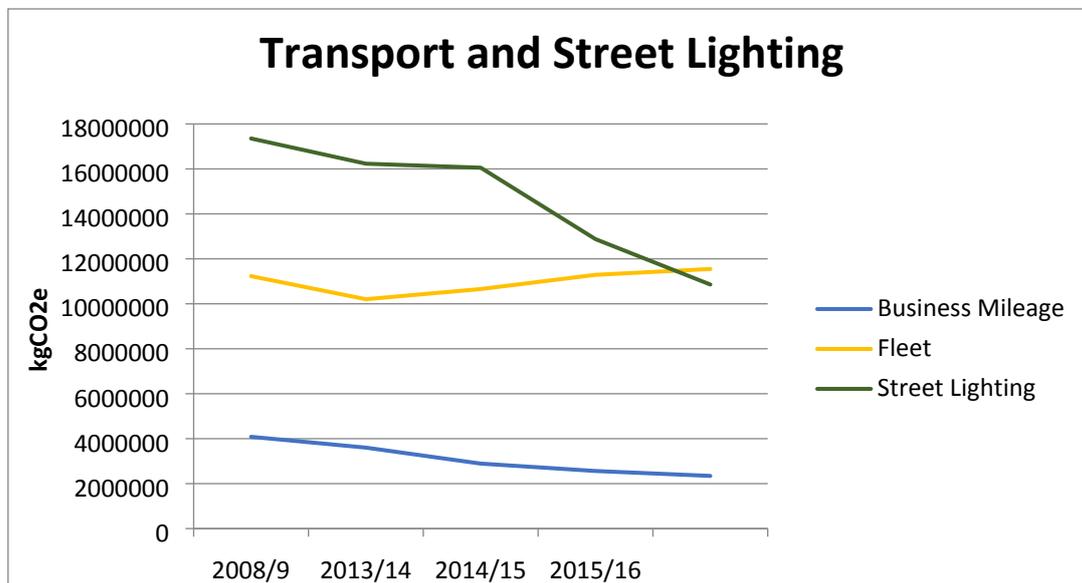
3. The Carbon Management Plan covers emissions from the operations of the Authority and includes carbon emissions from electricity used and heating from buildings and from fuel used in transporting staff as part of their duties.
4. The Carbon Programme Board has continued to direct carbon reduction activities, supported by the Revenue and Capital Boards which lead on project activities.
5. The Council is continuing to make carbon savings across its portfolio with reductions coming from behavioural changes, building improvements and a rationalising of the estate. The following chart show progress to date and a breakdown by source.



6. In 2016/17 emissions from Council operations reduced significantly and we are ahead of schedule in meeting our 2020 target. This is as a result of a number of factors including
- Decarbonising of the electricity grid - Electricity is not as carbon intensive as it was;
 - Street lighting LED replacements - Results of project are now visible;
 - Portfolio rationalisation - Reduction in the number of properties;
 - Energy efficiency projects in retained buildings;
 - Relatively mild winters.

On-going projects

7. Since the last report a number of work packages have been delivered. These include replacement pool covers at leisure centres and better controls on equipment at the crematoria to enable them to be managed more efficiently.
8. The fourth phase of the Building Energy Efficiency Retrofit (BEER) project is reaching its conclusion. Over the next 2-3 months we are looking to complete major lighting and insulation projects in Spectrum 8, the Education Development Centre, the Gala Theatre, and Teesdale and Woodhouse Close Leisure Centres. Almost all lighting in these buildings will be replaced with energy efficient LEDs, saving approximately £50,000 per year and reducing our annual carbon footprint by 160 tonnes.
9. The Schools Carbon Reduction Programme has been continuing, with schools who have bought into the energy management SLA. There has been significant focus on ensuring out of hours gas and electric usage is reduced as much as possible. A more detailed presentation on this work and future plans is scheduled for the December meeting.
10. Eco-champions and Big Switch Off. It is proposed to align the Eco Champions with the broader Inspire programme. The Big Switch Off programme was temporarily paused and will resume as staff move into refurbished civic centres.
11. The Street Lighting LED Retrofit programme is continuing to deliver savings. The programme has been very successful in reducing energy use across our highway network. The following chart shows the carbon savings that are now being realised.



12. Feasibility works are on-going for a number of projects including connecting the Freemans Reach hydro-electric plant to the nearby leisure centre. At the moment the renewable electricity is going into the National Grid, but if the connection is viable, DCC will be able to realise the savings and make significant financial and carbon savings.

Future work

13. We are reaching a point where most of our buildings suitable for full retrofits have been investigated and improved, and almost all of our largest consuming buildings have had some form of energy efficiency works in the past 10 years. We are now investigating smaller buildings and considering thematic improvements (e.g. lighting upgrades across a number of smaller units) to continue making savings but these are likely to have longer payback periods.
14. The programme includes a number of actions that are speculative in nature and not all proposed projects progress to completion. The proposal to develop a solar farm adjacent to the data centre at Tanfield was halted due to the cost of connecting to the National Grid. As prices of PV systems have dropped, we are re-visiting this project but limiting the scope to powering the data centre, which will reduce the cost of connection.
15. Heat Storage. Renewable heat is harder to deliver than electricity, but we are investigating the possibility of storing waste heat in innovative batteries and using it when there is greater demand. We are also exploring the potential for an ERDF bid to secure funding for an innovative heating system at Stanley.
16. Other work programmes being developed include
 - Investigating battery storage to offset peak energy costs;
 - Working to embed energy efficiency into proposals for the new HQ;
 - Solar for Schools - Working with a provider who will install solar panels on schools and sell the electricity to the school at a reduced rate;
 - Revisit solar PV on DCC buildings - Costs have decreased and may be feasible again. This could also include solar panels on car ports.
17. There is an increasing driver to investigate shifting our electricity consumption away from peak hours (early evening). Charges, tariffs and incentives are encouraging users to avoid this time period if possible. Projects looking to shift demand away from this period could prove financially beneficial, but would not significantly reduce overall emissions.

Financial Savings

18. The following table shows that work from the Carbon Management Plan and other associated projects has saved the Authority £1,719,349 since 2012.

IN YEAR CARBON PROGRAMME FINANCIAL BENEFITS					
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Savings / Income	£ 213,882	£ 675,667	£1,300,872	£ 1,793,901	£ 2,377,159
Finance Costs	-£ 284,348	-£ 402,042	-£ 829,647	-£1,190,518	-£ 1,535,577
MTFP Savings	£ -	£ -	£ -	-£ 200,000	-£ 200,000

Annual Balance	-£ 70,466	£ 273,625	£ 471,225	£ 403,383	£ 641,582
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Recommendations

19. The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to :
- Note and comment on the content of the report and presentation
 - Offer views as to the direction of travel
 - Receive a further progress report as part of the committee's work programme for 2018/19.

Background Papers

Environment OSC – Carbon Management Plan Report – 18 November 2016

Durham County Council Carbon Management Plan 2015-2020

Stephen Beresford, Senior Carbon Management Officer
Stephen.beresford@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – The Carbon Reduction Programme has made significant financial savings for the authority

Staffing –None

Risk – None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights - None

Consultation - None

Procurement - None

Disability Issues - None

Legal Implications – None



**County Durham Environment Partnership Board
Minutes**

**Wednesday, 14th June 2017
The Burlison Room, Town Hall, Durham**

Apologies

- Jayne Watson - Durham County Council
- Stella Hindson - Durham County Council

Attendees:

Interim Chair:

- Oliver Sherratt - Durham County Council

- Jim Cokill - Durham Wildlife Trust
- Liz Charles - Durham Community Action
- Jamie Fletcher - Environment Agency
- John Reed - Durham County Council
- Tim Wright - Durham County Council
- Gordon Elliott - Durham County Council
- Steve Bhowmick - Durham County Council
- Victoria Burrell - Durham County Council
- Beverley Clark (Minutes) - Durham County Council

Item No.	Subject	Action By
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted. The main focus of the meeting is to discuss and formulate a future structure of The Environment Partnership to then report to the County Durham Partnership.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes and Matters Arising All actions from the previous minutes were carried out.</p>	
3.	<p>Environment Partnership SWOT Analysis – Workshop Session A discussion was held and the attached points were raised. It was stated that in order to provide a Strategic vision for the Partnership there is a need to develop an Environment Strategy, founded on a consultative basis and key specific issues. This also needs to reflect a community element. A wider consultative forum is required. The strategy would first have to be approved by the County Durham Partnership. Gordon Elliott to establish if it is acceptable for</p>	Gordon Elliott

Environment in Your Communities

Liz Charles provided an update of the work of the group which included:-

- Big Dig April 22nd - 5 community gardens took part with the aim of finding new volunteers and getting some extra help with some Spring tasks.
- Allotment interactive map - now available on DCC website for residents. Need Town and Parish Councils to provide information on the ones they own. Gordon Elliott to chase up Town and Parish Councils to provide information.
- Growing Durham - awarded a Healthy Communities Grant to run an Edible Estates project in Gilesgate. Starts in August.
- Leaf Mould/Compost campaign - to be promoted in the Autumn by the Waste Strategy Team with information provided by Growing Durham.
- Garden Waste Survey (DCC) - open until the end of June.
- Award nomination for Waste Strategy Team - shortlisted for a National Recycling Award. 10 out of 600 applicants were shortlisted.
- Waste Less, Save More grant award - Waste Strategy Team submitted a Food Durham Partnership bid to Sainsbury's and have been awarded £35,600 for partners to work with communities to reduce food waste over next 12 months. Includes projects with Durham University students, provision of 3 community fridges, 3 'feed the 1,000' meals, and a zero waste kitchen challenge.
- World Environment Day – community event at Laurel Avenue Children's Centre in Gilesgate.

Gordon Elliott

Local Nature Partnership

Jim Cokill said that the LNP is now the MP – a new model has been developed selling the 'Environment' to organisations under an accreditation scheme. Investors in the Environment – establishing it's own foundation, 20-25 years.

Climate Change Group

John Reed provided an update on the work of the group which included: –

- The Civil Contingencies Unit working with schools.
- DCC Sustainability Team promoting European funding to local community groups.
- DCC working with Durham University in a bid for battery storage.
- Sustainable Travel Team looking at securing funding from The Department of Transport to

	promote walking and cycling.		
6.	<p>Environment Partnership Communications</p> <p>Victoria Burrell highlighted projects from the draft summer edition of the Altogether Greener newsletter. She asked that any amendments be emailed to her.</p> <p>Caring for your Environment Awards have been presented to Graeme Greig and the retiring DCC gardeners in the. An award was also presented by Oliver to two schoolchildren in Chester-le-Street for their environmental work. Liz Charles is organising future awards to be presented.</p> <p>World Environment Day activities organised by the theme groups included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing Durham held a community garden event at Laurel Avenue Childrens Centre, Gilesgate • DCC waste team held roadshow at Peterlee Asda • Litter picks held at Heritage Coast as part of Reach for the Beach festival • Climate Change group and Durham University students held an event about effects of climate change on the arctic. <p>A video was shown to the group featuring Oliver outlining the Environment Awards, examples of projects and how to get involved.</p> <p>The Environment Awards were launched on 5th June with the following publicity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press release – issued to all media with good coverage in the Northern Echo and Durham Times (Northern Echo continue to be media partner for this year’s awards) • Advert in Northern Eco supplement on 5th June • Information on DCC social media • Article in the summer edition of Durham County News • Other direct communications to schools, DCC staff, DCC elected members, AAPs, town and parish councils. <p>Steve Bhowmick stated that the deadline for entries is 28th July with shortlisting and judging taking place over the summer. Winners will be announced at a ceremony in Durham in November.</p>	All	
7.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Liz Charles gave her apologies as she is unable to attend the Environment Award ceremony on 23rd November 2017.</p>		
8.	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>13th September 2017, 10.00am, The Lantern Room, Durham Town Hall.</p>		

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**County Durham Environment Partnership Board
Minutes**

**Wednesday, 13th September 2017
The Lantern Room, Town Hall, Durham**

Apologies

Jamie Fletcher (JF) - Environment Agency
 Jim Cokill (JC) - Durham Wildlife Trust

Attendees:

Interim Chair:

Oliver Sherratt (OS) - Durham County Council

Liz Charles (LC) - Durham Community Action
 John Reed (JR) - Durham County Council
 Tim Wright (TW) - Durham County Council
 Gordon Elliott (GE) - Durham County Council
 Maggie Bosanquet (MB) - Durham County Council
 Stella Hindson (SH) - Durham County Council
 Victoria Burrell (VB) - Durham County Council
 Tarryn Lloyd Payne (TLP) - Durham County Council
 Angela Brown (Minutes) (AB) - Durham County Council

Item No.	Subject	Action By
1.	Welcome and Introductions OS welcomed everyone to the meeting and initiated round table introductions. Apologies were noted.	
2.	Minutes and Matters Arising Amendment to Page 3 currently showing as NLP is now MP and this should be NP – Nature partnership – AB to amend this All other actions were agreed as a true and accurate record	AB
3.	Draft Environment Strategy Building on previous discussions at the board OS proposed that the board look to now better understand its own strategic priorities. This would better place the board in determining its own structure and wider positioning going forward. The Strategy/Priorities will not be too detailed it will be to shape and guide the board and key deliverables. It was suggested that this would fit well with the local authorities	

	<p>position in regards to “plans on a page”</p> <p>TLP gave a presentation in way of further introduction to the development of the Environment Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Context for Change ○ Environmental Strategy Audit ○ Vision ○ Existing Priorities and Measures <p>The board discussed the implications of ensuring an effective strategy that provided an overarching strategic theme and not trying to replace existing plans. The board agreed that the process would be complimentary, although duplication would also be highlighted for consideration by the board.</p> <p>The board further discussed the existing vision and priorities. Initial thoughts from members where that the vision itself seemed still appropriate but further consideration would be needed of the priorities.</p> <p><u>Next Steps</u></p> <p>It was agreed that we would circulate the priorities for board members to consider and share with networks. Comments should be feed back to TLP within three weeks.</p> <p>TLP is to write a short description working closely with OS on this to do a summary of links and benefits of Environment to wider partnership groups. We can take this opportunity to highlight all other links with partnerships.</p> <p>At the next meeting we can then issue what we think is a Plan on the Page Strategy and discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How we want to deliver this through thematic groups? ● How do we then want to measure this and what do we value as projects and key actions? 	<p>Board Members</p> <p>TLP & OS</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Prioritising Prevention</p> <p>GE gave a presentation on prevention. He mentioned that he attends a group chaired by Jayne Robinson in Adults and Health and have been set a task for October/November to look at areas where coordination isn't working very well and where procedures can be put in place to intervene early.</p> <p>Looking for thoughts around 1 or 2 areas where partners</p>	

	<p>can take a different approach and move things on around Environment.</p> <p>The board discussed wider partnership considerations, including links to areas surrounding improvements to mental health through building community resilience and access to services.</p> <p>The board discussed possible areas considered to date including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ian Hoults has been leading on a partnership response to derelict buildings and addressing root causes of problems in responding to poorly maintained buildings and possible fire risk. ○ OS mentioned in relation to littering we currently give out over 500 fixed penalty notices per year. There is an opportunity to offer further discount (there is discount now if pay fine early) on an e learning package that could be completed at home. We would be first in the country to offer this alternative. Also cigarette littering working with health to possibly offer a smoking cessation course as an alternative to a fine could be a possibility. Kirklees did this and got some good results. ○ It was agreed Mental Health could offer lots of environmental links such as outdoor exposure and gardening. The Coastal Heritage Group also focus on the Environment and could join up in relation to impacts for mental health. <p>Areas agreed for further consideration included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Derelict/Empty Buildings – Ian Hoults 2) Developing an area based approach (Orcuma) – Ian Hoults 3) Benefits of the environment to Mental Health/Well-Being – Steve Bhowmick 4) Innovation in litter education - Oliver Sherratt <p>It was agreed that there is a need to work on headline areas. GE agreed to provide proformas and advise the Board on deadlines for prioritising prevention.</p>	<p>GE</p>																
<p>5.</p>	<p>Environment Awards</p> <p>MB gave an update on behalf of SB. She mentioned that Jonathan Seymour is coordinating the awards. She have list of entries and amount they had received in each category:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Building Environment</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Climate</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community partnership</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Craftsmanship</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Green Business</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>National Environment</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Places & Spaces</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Schools & Colleges</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	Building Environment	8	Climate	1	Community partnership	1	Craftsmanship	2	Green Business	1	National Environment	2	Places & Spaces	10	Schools & Colleges	5	
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	<p>Volunteer Group of year 6 Volunteer over 18 7 Volunteer under 18 1 Waste Management 4 TOTAL 51 Entries</p> <p>The awards were extended by two weeks. The figures are slightly lower than previous years. There are 3 judging sub groups which will all meet on 10th October to submit for final. The Final Awards night is 23rd November at the Radisson Blu – SH is to check to make sure that the date is in Terry Collins diary. The Sponsorship for the awards are: Banks Groups – Gold Sponsor Durham University – Gold Sponsor Durham Wildlife Trust Groundwork Northern Echo</p>	SH
6.	<p>Updates from Group Chairs & Questions</p> <p><u>Coastal, Heritage & Landscape Group</u> There was no update as Steve Bhowmick was absent from today’s meeting.</p> <p><u>Environment in Your Communities</u> Liz Charles provided an update of the work of the group which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charles Dowding is coming to Bowburn Community Centre for organic event where he will speak about No dig gardening and growing great vegetables. Booking for the event will be open soon. LC will circulate the link • Growing Durham now has 3 years extended funding for social therapeutic horticulture, currently working with NHS looking at GP surgery and Recovery College. • The leaf compost campaign is going into the next edition of County News. LC will be going out to promote this with the Waste Team when they deliver their Recycling Roadshows. • The group work plan is being populated. The Waste Less Save More Grant fund has had additional funding from Sainsbury’s. • Promoting Olio Food app which is a free app that connects neighbours with each other and local businesses so surplus food can be shared, not thrown away. This could be food nearing its sell-by-date in local stores, spare home grown vegetables, bread from the baker or groceries from your fridge when you go away. This could link to the prevention work. • Recycling week is Monday 25th September until 	LC

	<p>Sunday 1st October. Have lots planned for this week.</p> <p><u>Local Nature Partnership</u> There was no update as Jim sent apologies for today's meeting.</p> <p><u>Climate Change Group</u> JR updated the Board with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The window for EU funding is now closed, have been trying to promote bids for the Council for ERDF for Chester-le-St & Lanchester. • Energy Efficiency – There is EU money that has not been taken advantage of as match is 40% which is proving to be a big barrier. Calls are about to reopen soon. <p>MB mentioned that she had been successful with transnational projects.</p>	
7.	<p>Environment Partnership Communications SH circulated a copy of the Newsletter and informed the Board that it is not yet complete as they are awaiting news from the Northumbria in Bloom Winners. Caring for your Environment Award was presented by OS to Malcolm Watson from Stanley, Malcolm who is blind and goes to exceptional efforts to improve his local area. The North Pennines AONB partnership Nectar works project won the Bowland Award which is an annual award for the best project, best practice or outstanding contribution to the wellbeing of an area of outstanding natural beauty. The project has involved practical conservation, surveying, oral histories, education and training which engaged thousands of people SH mentioned that the newsletter will be circulated at the end of next week. GE mentioned that we should be checking on AAP events and these could be added to the 'What's on section' at the back of the Newsletter. GE will chase this</p>	GE
8.	<p>AOB VB mentioned that as part of the National University Awards, Durham University have been shortlisted for Green Gown Award and Green Move Out Award. They will find out if they were successful on 16th November. The Waste Team have been invited as key partners as they have been working closely with the University and County Durham Furniture Scheme. This is a good partnership project.</p> <p>TLP informed the Board that he would be the partnership officer lead going forward and AB will now be circulating the papers and taking the minutes for this meeting. VB would continue in her role as Strategic Waste Manager on</p>	

	<p>the Board.</p> <p>OS updated on the Litter Innovation Fund and asked the Board members to google Litter Innovation Fund, deadline is fairly tight but they only requiring expressions of interest. MB will highlight this to Niall Benson as 10% of national funds is for Marine Coastal.</p> <p>AB will circulate future meeting dates to the Board</p>	AB	
8.	<p>Date and time of next meeting 6th December 2017, 10.00am, The Burlison Room, Durham Town Hall.</p>		